

1. Blairsville CAS Session

April 16, 2002

1. What TVA related issues are of special concern to you?

Flood Control- I think that they do around Nottely fine, hardly flooding with ample discharge of water

Power Supply- I realize this is a requirement for TVA to provide a source of income.

Recreation- The water level could be raised during the winter to enable lakes to fill in summer.

Flood Control- This is important but TVA should be able to adjust more quickly to weather trends i.e. extended drought years cause water resources to be more valuable. Do not pull lakes so low so early each year. Begin filling earlier each year.

Navigation- Important to economic health but needs to be balanced with other public benefits which are greater to the local area.

Power Supply- Important but should not be controlled farther at the expense of water supply and recreation

Water Supply- This is the lifeblood of every region. Protect resources for future generations.

Land Use- Tremendous economic benefit for the region. Please review impact of flood storage and power generation on Lake Nottely lake levels. There must be a balance of the benefits and mission of TVA

Land Use- Good TVA service to protect the environment

Recreation- Keep Lake Nottely lake levels up longer or all year

Timing and amount of water draw down on lake blue ridge

Lake levels need to be reevaluated in light of the fact that the lake may have more value as a recreational lake than has been the case in the past. Why couldn't the lake stay up longer in the fall, which would create? Tourist revenue throughout the fall season. Wouldn't less fluctuation be less disturbing to the fish population? TVA, in the past, seems to be listening, but not acting.

Power: Originally the lake was set up for power, but now local power companies can adequately supply the output of the area.

Maintaining the level of the lake at a high level, i.e. 1927' reduce the draining of the lake for recreational purposes.

Chatuge Lake level during the winter months. I would like to see it maintained at a higher level (i.e. 1920 feet minimum) during the off season months instead of the targeted 1912 feet that has been used since day one.

1920 feet would seem to be a reasonable level for flood control and navigation purposes.

We want the same lake level, as lake chatuge in Hiawasseee GA. Recreation should be a number one priority.

We hope you will listen to the people's input.

Releases downstream of Appalachia Dam are needed to maintain and enhance the coldwater fishery that TVA created when they built that dam. In addition, downstream releases are required on weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day to support the whitewater recreation industry that creates so much revenue and economic benefit for Polk County. That release schedule needs to be established for the entire season and must be agreeable to the commercial rafting companies -- currently the lack of a season-long schedule requires them to operate "by the seat of their pants" and that is no way to run a business. Opportunities for commercial guiding

The low lake levels for the winter pull down. Dropping the lake over 30 ft where you cannot use but one boat ramp seems extreme. Nottely River does not have 1/3 the volume of water flow as Tocca, Hiawassee, E.Tenn. Etc.

Land usage and water draw down

Keeping the lake levels up.

Water level fluctuates too much and seldom reaches full pool. Results in the lake being usable for only a few months of the year. Also, negatively affects fish population because the drastic fluctuation means that spawning and growing seasons are too short. The low level of water and the shortness of relatively full pool have a negative economic impact on our local economy.

Lake levels

Lake Levels staying up longer in Lake Nottely and Chatuge

Change in lake level consideration. Lake Nottely has long had an invalid runoff coefficient used, which is one reason our lake has failed to reach normal pool for the last several years. While we have other issues, this is certainly one problem in addition to the time the lake remains at or near full pool

Lake levels in the late summer.

Recreation; particularly the trout fishing resource that has developed below the Blue Ridge dam. Water release schedules and minimum flows are critical to this resource.

Protection of the environment. Management of water levels to insure healthy fish populations, including constant water levels during spawning season.

Water quality, recreation availability, and erosion control

Recreation, Fisheries management / Aquatic life

Water quality in the lakes. Preserving ALL TVA land against private development. I think TVA should hold on to ALL land it currently owns.

SELL NO LAND!!!!!!

I would like to see Lake Nottely stay up to summer pool level till the middle of October

Less variation in levels of Lake Nottely and other TVA Lakes

Recreation, home land value, flooding

The level of Blue Ridge Lake. The taxes get higher and higher on Blue Ridge Lake as people pay higher and higher prices for lots. It seems from a recreation standpoint we should be given higher priority than the rafters. It seems the level could be kept up year around and as a taxpayer

on Blue Ridge Lake, I do not feel TVA has given us the consideration we deserve for the investment we have made.

Lake levels

Lake levels are set too low in the winter. The heaviest rains don't cause the lake to ever fill up in the winter.

Lake level and quality of water.

Lake Levels

Water Levels, Recreation.

Lake Levels, I understand the benefits of Flood Control however, I feel several lakes in our area could hold or drop slower from July to September

The lake level being maintained on somewhat of a consistent bases.

As a permanent resident of Blairsville, I find it outrageous that TVA fill the lake so slowly in the spring and drain it so early in the fall (long before Labor Day). Like it or not, Lake Nottely is a recreational lake, despite TVA's protestations otherwise. Surely there can be a balance between TVA's need for flood control and power and the pleasure of this community for its boating and fishing. Syd Cole, Lt. Cmdr., retired 1645 Smokey Creek Cove, Blairsville, GA 30512

Lake Nottely so slowly in the spring and drain it so quickly, long before Labor Day. Whether they like it or not, Lake Nottely IS a recreational lake. Surely their power and flood control needs can be adequately met without excluding this county from the pleasure of the boating and fishing that make this area so treasured

Lake level up for longer period of time and a healthy minimum flow all year to maintain the natural environment

Water levels at lake Blue Ridge, and the future need to pull for power.

Also rule 1304.106 as it relates to the consent of all to issue a 26a permit, when the effect of this rule changes the designated use the developer and TVA determined over 10 years prior. E.g. current appeal process for Star Creek Estates - Russell Baggett

Water Quality and Lake levels

Lake levels and keeping them at a higher level longer, instead starting the drop in late July start it in mid September, This will help to bring in additional revenue to each community through more activity on the lakes.

The recreational use of Lake Nottely is my special concern. This will beautify the area and bring positive economic development to a region that has poor job opportunities and much poverty.

Keeping Lake Blue Ridge at full pool, March through November. Also, having adequate fish habitats.

Year round lake levels; recreation; fishing; beauty

Lake levels later in season

The FLOOD CONTROL

The lake levels are of concern and the fact that it has not been full in three years. We live on the lake and the only thing that we see is mud and the property values are going down.

Lake levels in Lake Blue Ridge and consistency in the Ocoee River. Our area's economy is more and more dependent on tourism and second homes. The changing level of Lake Blue Ridge is discouraging to homeowners, and lack of consistency downstream affects businesses negatively on the Ocoee. There must be a way to solve these problems.

Water levels and costs to operate

Lake level.

Mainly recreation and water levels. I understand the need for flood controls that keep the water levels low in winter and spring but in the 24 years I have owned property here I have not witnessed many times where it was necessary to have the levels 25 ft or more below the full pool. Even a 5-6 inch rain rarely increases the lake level by more than 4-6 feet at best. The other issue that is important is the use of land around the lake and protecting the undeveloped National forest and TVA land from over development. One only has to look at Lanier and Allatoona to see what uncontrolled development can do to the resources.

The drastic lowering of the water level for an extended period of time

Tail waters below each dam. Water quality is most important.

Lake level goes down too low too soon and stays down too long. The poor lake quality we've had on both Lake Nottely and Chatuge the past 2 or 3 years. The huge boats on Chatuge creating big wakes that wash shorelines. The jet skis are too many, too loud and too dangerous. Who will patrol these lakes? DNR doesn't have enough manpower.

Lake levels and flood control

Management of the lake levels and the impact on habitats for fish & game. Also predictability of Lake levels for recreational purposes.

Water quality and levels -also usage

The TVA issue that I am most concerned with is the current guide curves, which control the dam releases, primarily at Hiawassee and Appalachia Dams.

Water level of lake chatuge from May 1 thru Oct 15. Currently they start draining the lake in late July. This is lunacy. The area would benefit greatly if the water level remained full until Oct. 15.

The lake water level in the fall and winter is extremely low

Lake Nottely lake level

I live on Lake Nottely

Lake levels

Lake level - extends much as possible - Like it never to go down

Lake levels being up longer

Lake levels why is lake chatuge always only down 1/3 as much as Nottely.

The level of the lake and the winter months it is so low, also the draw down that starts in Aug. so early in the year

Water levels start filling earlier TVA is doing a great job overall

Water level, water quality

Lake levels at Lake Nottely

Lake Nottely lake level

Lake Level

Water level during the year.

Lake levels

Water levels specifically

Water levels and water quality.

Keeping water levels up a little longer

Minimum Lake levels

Lake Nottely lake level I live on Lake Nottely and would like to see higher lake levels from June thru Sept. We have lived there for six years and have yet been able to keep our boat on our property for more the two weeks all summer and that being the first two weeks of July, and yet we are being taxed for water front property.

Ocoee River releases for recreation.

The quality of the lakes and their level of being full and useful to the property owners on the lakes. It seems that there can be a constant level of fullness and a water flow that is constant year around for the generation of electricity

The level of Lake Nottely is of great concern. I understand the issues of flood control, etc., but I do not feel that our lake is treated fairly. There is supposed to be a balance in all of the TVA concerns but there does not seem to be in the north GA area. In addition, if water quality is so important to TVA, why is the quality of our water rated poor? This is not a new rating and it seems that the water quality issue has not been addressed. We have recently heard of a study that is to be done but why did it take so long?

Understanding why TVA doesn't recognize the lake level as to the recreational uses.

Why does TVA recognize recreation uses?

The management plan that mandates a release schedule that does not take into consideration climatic conditions of the region. Lake Nottely's level is projected by this management plan and water released on a pre-arranged schedule. The area has been in a drought for the last few years while other areas in the TVA have experienced record levels of rainfall. Yet the release schedule remains the same and the lake has not achieved full pond in four years. WHY?

Leaving Lake Blue Ridge full from May 1 to October 15 each year.

Water levels at lake Nottely and the early draw down before Labor Day

The apparent lack of concern by TVA for lake users Lake levels and water quality don't seem to be as high a priority as I believe they should be.

Lake level of Nottely during spring and summer. Why is this lake consistently lower than the other two adjoining lakes along the Georgia border?

Water Quality, Lake level

Water level control, higher levels in summer, no drastic changes in levels before Oct. More accurate accounting of flood zone areas and areas not in flood zone

Lake levels higher for more of the year. More efficient energy methods than lake water reserve.

Don't start the draw down so early. Wait until after Labor Day. Why with the drought do you draw it down so far?

Downstream recreation; particularly affordable, reliable releases on the reaches of the Ocoee and Hiawassee.

Water level through out the year. Recreational use of the lake. I don't know why the TVA can't give homeowners on the lake higher waters for longer periods of time. We bought on the lake to have the water as high and as long as possible.

Lake LEVELS

Local economic development in the recreation industry. Specifically TVA's responsibilities to local communities for increased opportunities and existing business development. More specifically - recreational water releases on the Middle and Upper Ocoee rivers for whitewater recreation, to continue industry growth, incidental community economic development, and future economic growth, without incurring costly water release fees, or a minimal and reasonable low cost fee's for these water releases.

Lake levels and water quality mostly levels Blue Ridge draw down seems severe compared to other lakes in the area and also quite lengthy. I would like to see the water quality remain at the current standard or above it. Also there is a need for hydroelectric power that needs to be addressed. We need environmentally friendly ways of generating electricity.

RECREATION

My biggest concern is water quality and the lake level. I would the water level to remain consistently higher for a longer period of time.

Water quality, lake level

Water quality, environmental issues, and lake levels

Recreational releases to expand the employment base throughout the river use corridor in all phases

Lake levels and blue ridge lake

Water level and clean environment

Electric production

Lake levels on Lake Nottely, especially during the months from March to October

Flood and erosion

Control

Flood and erosion control

Flood

Lake levels for a longer period of time

2. Why are these issues of special concern to you?

Have a second home on Lake Blue Ridge

We have lived on Lake Nottely for seven years and take an active interest through our lake association to keep the water clean by shoreline work days and checking water quality of incoming tributaries through the Hiawassee River shed Coalition.

I have property on the lake and would like to use my boat and navigate the Lake all year long.

I live on Lake Chatuge

I make my living because of downstream releases from Appalachia Dam. The company that I work for utilizes these releases for whitewater rafting, fishing, and kayak instruction. Furthermore, I represent the members of the Hiawassee Scenic River Stakeholders, a varied group of whitewater enthusiasts, fishermen, local business owners, and commercial rafting companies that has come together to promote issues important on the Hiawassee River. Personally, as a whitewater paddler, fisherwoman, and environmentalist, I see how the lack of releases on the Hiawassee is damaging the river ecosystem and the local economy.

I enjoy fishing year round and it's very hard to get a boat in Nottely after Oct/Nov. I live up Jack Creek and my dock was on the ground the week after Labor Day. Would like to see the levels kept up longer and not drop as low.

Because I live on the lake

I live on the lake and would like to use my boat from dock all year around.

We are homeowners who enjoy boating and fishing and are living in a mud hole much of the year

We live on Lake Nottely and also feel that longer use of the lake would improve the economic growth of the area.

The lake level in our area is one of the key economic engines of the community. We are a retirement community and tourism is our main industry. While this is certainly not our only economic resource, it is probably one of the most important.

I think most of the people expect you to seriously consider leaving our lake level up from mid May until mid Oct. We understand there must be fluctuations and that the weather is a factor. But

adjusting your drawdowns while keeping a range of lake levels that is within a 3 to 4 foot range of full pool during this time should not cause a major impact to the system. While there may be some loss in revenue due to the demand factor being less during October, considering that only 10% of power in the system comes from hydro, could this impact be enough to cause a serious problem? I don't think it would. How much would power cost to the consumer have to go up to offset this small loss?

We need your help? Please reexamine the rainwater runoff in our Nottely Lake watershed. We know you have made mistakes, as I am sure you are able to tell from the lack of being able to fill our lake the last few years. We are way behind the curve and deserve some special consideration, especially since we are at the headwaters of the watershed, and the government is already requiring much from our landowners is sacrificing buffer areas along our streams to protect the water for those downstream.
Thanks for listening

I live on lake Nottely and like to use the lake for boating and fishing.

I am a property owner on the river downstream from the dam and an avid trout fisherman. I also operate a professional guide service for trout fishing. It is my belief that the trout fishery below Blue Ridge dam has the potential for a significant economic impact on this area.

TVA manages a large portion of the valley and can significantly effect environmental conditions in the area.

Live on Nottely River

Have cabin on river below Blue Ridge Dam. Love to fish

Because I see the mountains and land being degraded all around me and I see the water quality deteriorating.

We need to save all the beauty and naturalness we can.

Better and longer use of lakes result in much more benefit to the community and its visitors.

Land owner and like to boat and fish

Because I live on Blue Ridge Lake most of the year. I have two lots and hefty investment in my lake home. I do not like to walk through mud for 500 yards to get to my dock. I like to fish late in the fall, but have to remove my boat early because you let the lake down. You should keep the lake at a decent level until 1 November each year. Actually, there is no reason to let the level of the lake down as much as you do each year. This hurts the tax situation for Fannin County because of the reduction in visitors to the area in the fall. I pay a substantial amount of taxes and you are hurting my investment.

It would be good to be able to use the lake for recreation from Memorial Day to Labor Day without the water "disappearing", this is not a high percentage of time out of 12 months.

My job is economic development. Higher levels mean more visitors to the community and more room occupancy. More business over all. A rented cabin uses electricity in the winter or later and earlier in the tourist season.

We swim in the lake, as do our children and grandchildren. Higher lake levels for longer periods of time will bring more tourist revenue to the area.

Own a lake house currently at Nottely Lake, (Blairsville, GA). The lake level has been down for the last three years. Some lot owners on our cove do not have any water in front of the dock. We would like to see the water levels stay up.

I own property on the lake and live on the lake. There are too much fluctuations in the water levels. It is drawn down too early and it isn't allowed to stay high long enough.

It is important to maintain the level early in the spring to insure proper spawning.

Outdoors type person who lives by the Nottely River and loves the Tennessee Valley.

Because my family own a home in Star CCreek Estates, and we are very attached to the beautiful TVA Lake Blue Ridge.

Tom Berry developed Star Creek Estates and since 1991 all inside lot sales came with the understanding that the common area lake lot would be designated for access to the lake. Mr. Hugh Standridge TVA indicated that he was on site during the development, and the dock was always planned for lot 17.

There was a recent report that water quality was not good and I would like to see that improved.

The dropping of the lakes limits lake activity and reduces the number of people using the lakes and reduces the amount of time visitors or residents are able to use the lakes. It ends up being an economic impact, for example the boat ramps become unusable too quickly and people cannot drop their boats.

I own property in Union County and hate to see all the beauty ruined so many months of the year with Lake Nottely being practically drained and losing its desirability in early August. This hurts the economics of the area greatly and is very ugly. Lake Nottely is lowered more than any other lake in the region.

We have a vacation home on Lake Blue Ridge. We like the appearance to be better and the water to maintain its blue green color and clarity. Raising and lowering the lake seems to "muddy" the waters and cause erosion from the banks. We don't understand the economics of lowering the lake starting in July and basically making it unusable by Sept. 15. The TVA does not seem to give any recreational weight to the boating community.

I would like to be able to utilize the lake for more months during the year for boating. Higher levels and more consistently higher levels of water would enhance fishing and reduce erosion into the lake from such dramatic drawdowns.

TVA seems to do things the same way they did in the mid 40's and 50's

I heard so many negative things about the flood control

The fish not having any place to spawn. Whole area looks bad because of the mud. Lake Nottely seems to be the lowest lake of all the lakes in the state of GA from full pool.

I am involved in tourism and economic development in Fannin County.

Resident and taxpayer

I own property on Lake Nottely and enjoy water recreation.

I have owned land in both Fannin and Union County for over 24 years. In that time I have used both Blue Ridge and Nottely and have seen many changes in both the use and environment. I

know that there is a delicate balance between all the purposes of the TVA system but the idea that the lake levels must be kept low needs to be reevaluated. Also I have been told that the lake levels fluctuate based on power and navigation needs. Nottely unfortunately feeds Appalachia Dam that I have come to learn is the single biggest power revenue source on the TVA system. That is still no reason to draw the lake down on July the 4th so we have to chase water and come up against hazards that normally should be underwater. I spoke with a TVA man last year and asked him why the lake was being drawn down. His answer was "That's the way we have always done it". That may have been true in 1950 but the tremendous growth in recreation use in this lake needs to be put into the equation

Because of the impact that it has on my property in terms of extensive erosion because of the low water level. Also concerned about the environment and fish and wildlife that are affected by these changes in the
Water level for an extended time frame.

I feel the tail waters are important for recreation.

Because we don't want a dead lake, and our economy depends on tourism.

Land value environment

I own property on Lake Blue Ridge in Georgia. It is one of the cleanest and most pristine in the South. Fannin county and the surrounding community would benefit greatly from a predictable use of the Lake during the summer - high tourist season.

We have lived on Lake Nottely for 12 years participated in the Lake Improvement Association to improve the quality and Levels. We would like TVA to provide a Lake that can be better utilized by the citizens living on the lake.

I feel that the current guide curves do not fully reflect the current needs of the residential and commercial entities that utilize the rivers as sources of business and recreation. I feel that water availability and effects on lake levels should be integrated into a water budgeting model that addresses the seasonal hydrological limitations on providing sustained coldwater habitat and recreational releases. In addition, this plan should include contingency plans for years of drought that are agreeable for all parties involved.

I live on Lake Chatuge. When the water level varies all over the place, it's impossible to determine where the shoreline will be from month to month. Economically, the entire area would benefit if tourists could enjoy the lakes thru Oct. 15

The lake is totally unusable in the low level months

Boat usage

We live on the lake

Economic impact and recreation

I live on it and am worried about it as my home and concerned for the value as well as the beauty of the Lake.

Property owner, investment value, plan to retire in this area

Homeowner on lake

Would like to the lake level stay for a longer period of time

Environmental, Recreation, Water for area

I maintain 4 cabins and 2 lake houses on the lake, which we rent year round. We also rent pontoons. The lake level very definitely affects the volume of business as well as the quality of our customers stay. Stabilize local economics

We would like to use the water longer at the end of the summer, at least through Oct 15.

Full lakes have a positive economical impact on our community. A full Lake Nottely should improve water quality. If nothing else the pollutants would be diluted. Also the mud banks have nothing to help clean the water as it comes up every year. There can be no buffers close enough to the water to do any good. It is expecting too much of mother nature to ask her to rain in Lake Nottely during the early spring to bring the lake up over 35 feet.

A little more time to use the boat.

Ecology and recreation

Rafting and kayaking.

Because I live on Lake Blue Ridge and purchased this property for the use of the water and its beauty year around

First of all, I am a homeowner on the lake. Obviously I would like to be able to see water all year long when I look out the window. But secondly, I would like to be able to get in the water and not worry about my health. Equally important is the impact of this lake on my community. I think it would make a huge difference in the economy of Blairsville if the lake were attractive and safe.

The local economy!!

I live on the lake and use it for recreation purposes. The economic welfare of Union County is growing more dependent upon the retirement, tourist trade and the lake is a big asset for the region. It's continued a problem with being raised to full pond is a liability.

Because I live on Lake Blue Ridge, and I'm sick and tired of TVA pulling the plug on August 1 for no good reason. TVA could leave the lake full until October 15, since there is no significant rainy season between August 1 and October 15 that necessitates the lowering of the lake level. August is still summer, and the weather in Sept and Oct is gorgeous - leaves changing, etc. Beautiful time of the year to use the lake for recreation.

I do welcome the opportunity you are providing for input from us. This is a refreshing change from the arrogance that TVA has displayed for decade toward the residents on Lake Blue Ridge.

I only hope that my input makes a difference in the way TVA manages Lake Blue Ridge. The lake was born back in the 1930s, and it has been terribly mismanaged ever since, with no regard for the wishes of the people who live on the lake.

I am very interested to see if TVA is actually going to consider and act positively upon our input.
Courtland D. Ferguson II
Blue Ridge, Georgia

We own property on Lake Nottely. Plus by an early draw down it probably has an economic impact on the community

We moved to Blairsville and live on lake Nottely. We have children and grandchildren who also live here on the river and lake.

Because I live on the lake, and I am paying much higher taxes because of the water front property, but you also have to have water!!!!!!

Economic impact of lake on local economy and use of lake

Impact on tourism. Impact on property values. Environment.

I live on Lake Blue Ridge.

The tremendous economic benefit derived by the entire region is invaluable. Tourism in the Ocoee Region (including the Hiawassee) is our sole growth industry. Downstream whitewater recreation has proven to be the economic engine.

Affordable if not free releases would be desired. Compensating TVA for lost generation revenues is unfair to the commercial operator. Generation cost methods have never been shared and or revealed. Reimbursement for peak power is a narrow minded and prohibitive. Further dialog, investigation and other alternatives are needed.

I worked my whole life and dreamed of a home on lake Blue Ridge. I love to use the lake recreationally, and having higher waters for longer periods also protects the investment I worked so hard to achieve.

We do not enjoy our lake due to low water levels

I support my family, local shops, restaurants, and all other incidental business through working in this industry.

Most all of the local community has a stake in this industry through incidental income, direct jobs, and non-direct jobs.

I live and use the lake even in the winter season mostly for recreation it creates a hardship to maintain docks and it creates mud and silt.

I am a water skier and lake user

As a homeowner on lake Blue Ridge, I would like more time to boat safely. Higher water levels make for safe boating.

Use of lake for residents in area

Health and environmental issues should be a concern to the general population. The needs of the community have changed in the past fifty years and TVA should meet today's concerns. The economic health of the community depends on clean water and higher lake levels.

My employment and the welfare of my county in TENN. DEPENDS ON how much water is released for recreation

Because I live on Blue Ridge lake

Own property on lake Nottely and care about fish and wildlife

Cheap Electric

I live on the lake and would like to use it longer each year during the warm months and so many people come in the fall and it looks so terrible when the lake is way down

As a homeowner living on the Hiawassee river

Short lake seasons impact our enjoyment of the lake- we only have a full pool for 6-10 weeks a year.

3. How could TVA improve its management of the TN River system?

Improve minimum flows on the Hiawassee River below Appalachia Dam to improve the coldwater fishery there. This could be accomplished through continuous low-cfs releases consistent with the current amounts of minimum flow release or through the harnessing of thermal stratification in the lake, making minimum flow releases come from colder water. That should make the releases require less water. Also, TVA needs to develop a definite schedule for releases on the Hiawassee River. Businesses on the Ocoee operate knowing exactly which days every summer that they will have water, but businesses on the Hiawassee are not granted this treatment. This situation needs to be rectified. The release schedule should include a drought management plan that does not affect weekend whitewater releases and that is agreeable to all those using the Hiawassee below Appalachia Dam.

More water testing actually talking to the people who live on these waters

Increasing board members that are residence of states that have TVA properties.

Give recreation a higher priority than navigation.

By leaving lake up for a longer period

Consider recreation as a priority in the use of the river system. This is important to the economic development of the area.

I think the economic development has to creep up in priority. TVA also has to consider the climate change of dryer seasons. While this may not last from now on, I think we can safely assume it is changing for now.

Give greater importance to recreation.

Carefully regulate minimum flows below dams to protect the fishery and other aquatic life in the river.

Consistent water flows

Make the rules of resource use more available to the public. I can't find the rules and laws anywhere.

Less emphasis on flood control and navigation in areas downstream.

Not let so much water out of Lake Nottely and not do so as early as presently done.

By keeping Lake Blue Ridge at a decent level for recreation late in the fall. At least do not start drawing it down until 1 November each year.

I would like you to re-engineer the lake level charts to raise the level on the lowest day by about 15 feet and revise the lake level curve upward throughout the March-June period.

Let each state control the lakes within the states boundary.

The lakes in the Blairsville Georgia area are used for recreational purposes and it would be nice to see the lake levels remain consistent to where boating can be safe during the summer season. This person does not understand why the water level is reduced each year when the winter season does not bring any increase in the lake levels.

Use more realistic studies. There is no reason to draw the water out of the lake if others levels are low already.

Reduce the water flow used for commercial navigation and hold the lake level up much longer into the year in order to have the ability to meet rapid demand and meet cold peak load

I thank you for sharing and asking for input, but I would feel that the talent to make the right decision is in our TVA system, as long as the decision is made in the best interest of the people and future generations. And not for money or the power of influence. Water quality and the scenic beauty should be the most important consideration when making policies.

Keep water levels between Blue Ridge and Chatuge closer to Nottely. It always seems as though Blue Ridge and Chatuge are not brought down as low and are not brought up as quickly either.

Manage the flow better and keep the lakes up.

Leave the lakes up through October.

Stop being so obstinate and listen to the people affected by their out of date policies.

More information to the public

Do not lower the lake levels as much as they have and pay more attention to the weather patterns.

Consider recreation to be a primary function for consideration in controlling the levels of the lakes and flows of the rivers. Especially recreation as related to economic development.

Maintain more appropriate water levels

Accomplish water studies about how much water needs to be released to prevent flooding. Be more responsive to recreation needs. There is a lot of economic impact top an area from recreation.

This forum is a good start. I appreciate the opportunity to give my feedback. Please listen to the ideas and let's have some new ideas and thinking going into this process. More detailed information as to why certain things are happening posted on your web site would be helpful. River Neighbors is very informative but the info is old before it is published. Also a feedback question answer forum on line would be great. I sell auto parts on our website and you would not believe how much we learn from the feedback forums about our customers and how we can better serve them. After all we are your customers aren't we?

I also would like to express the opinion that the TVA is trying to shed the bureaucracy that it has left over from the days it was a government organization. Please look to model yourself after some of the better run companies and listen to your customers and don't let the special interest money overtake the will of the majority of stakeholders.

Only lower the water level for a two or three month time frame as may be necessary for dam repairs. This should be done during the winter and TVA should not take the water level down more than 15 feet.

Work to keep generation constant and lake levels more consistent

Keep lake level up which has been said for years at many, many meetings. The rain has decreased over the past 10 years so there has been little danger of flooding, which was a big concern in the long ago.

Hold more water up stream for a longer period than July

TVA seems to manage the Lake system according to mandates that fit the times 30 years ago. They should be managed to meet the needs of today's citizens in today's times.

By keeping the lakes at a level that will benefit all involved.

Review the current guide curves that are being used. Are they adequate in reflecting the current ongoing conditions of the lakes and rivers? The potential and historic economic impacts of whitewater releases on the local and regional economy must be studied in detail. The impacts of commercial boating, private boating, commercial and private fishing, and the residual revenues generated from these activities and the federal, state, local, and private organizations that benefit from them should also be studied in detail.

Listen to the citizens of the area.

Take less water from Nottely

Increase lake levels longer

Better regular the levels of the lake on a year round program, where lake streams would still have some water year round

They do a good job

My big question is that it seems like the water is sent to other rivers even when there are large weather patterns coming across the country.

Keep lake level constant or close to full pool at least from May thru Oct.

Maintain usable lake level for longer periods of year.

Higher lake level in the off-season

Better management of draw down

Just to make it simple, keep the lake level higher for a longer time. When the level falls below 1922 feet, it is very hard and dangerous for our customers to use the lake.

Drop lake levels later in the year

Keep some of the water that originates in other states like Georgia in Georgia a little longer. Why does it have to be sent to Tenn. so quickly? Why are these other states entitled to any more water than they would receive if the lakes were not here and only the normal flow of the rivers provide.

Hope to learn that tonight.

Set a minimum lake level. It should never, for any reason, be as low as Lake Nottely was this year my first year in Blairsville. Why build a dam or lake if you intend to literally drain it. I find it totally unacceptable.

More consideration of the local need and sharing of the water resource.

Providing a balance, keeping in mind that recreation and water quality are as important as all the other issues. We truly do feel neglected and discriminated against.

Look at how to improve communication with the "upper lakes" so that they will know why you have to take the lakes like Nottely down such drastic levels.

Develop a system that considers more than regulated lake levels. Take into consideration drought conditions, etc.

Leave Lake Blue Ridge full from 1 May until 15 October

Listening to concerned citizens and residents of this county

Revise its operating procedures, in other words limit the draw down especially during the summer months to be lake user friendly. If Lake Nottely is a part of the TN River system we think you should bring the lake to full pool before Memorial Day and not start a draw down till after Labor Day.

Treat each lake equally. If you take a gallon of Nottely water and send it to the next lake on the system then 2 gallons should be sent on not one gallon, as the impact should be the same for all lakes regardless of where they are on the system.

More emphasis on local use of lakes

TVA should consider downstream recreation for rafting, canoeing and kayaking in the ROS. TVA should provide for these recreational interests the same as TVA provides recreation benefits in its tributary reservoirs.

TVA needs to recognize whitewater recreation as a project purpose of the Hiwassee and Ocoee Rivers. Providing both free releases and a reliable schedule of releases on the Hiwassee River to fully maximize recreation and economic impacts.

TVA cannot fully expect commercial outfitters on the Ocoee River to pay for lost generation revenues while they continue to provide free recreation benefits to lake users. TVA forgoes power generation at tributary lakes to maintain lake levels through August 1, having agreed not to charge users for this loss of potential power generation. TVA should balance both river recreation and lake levels with minimal costs to the power system.

TVA should recognize the Upper Ocoee as an exciting and valuable recreational asset. TVA should provide recreational flows without demand for reimbursement of lost generation revenues.

I believe the best use of water in the Ocoee/Hiwassee systems to be whitewater recreation. Whitewater activities on the Ocoee/Hiwassee Rivers generate over 1 million visitors annually and an excess of 9 million dollars to the local economies.

I further support the release schedule specified in the USFS 1997 EIS "Upper Ocoee River Corridor Recreational Development". Under this preferred alternative, TVA would provide 54 free days for recreational releases on the Upper Ocoee annually, in concert with the existing management plan utilized and implemented on the Middle Ocoee currently to maximize recreational benefits.

I strongly feel TVA has a mandate to support economic growth and development in the Tennessee Valley and is limiting the economy of the Ocoee region by limiting flows on the Hiwassee and by requiring full cost recovery for lost generation on the Upper Ocoee.

I strongly feel TVA has a public obligation to provide free recreational releases in the rivers they manage. By implementing free releases on the Upper Ocoee, Middle Ocoee and the Hiwassee, TVA would prove they are effective stewards of public resources.

Increase water levels in the lake areas for longer periods of time.

Maintain higher lake levels relocate flood storage

I feel the TVA does an excellent job managing the Tennessee River project, and should continue the management of these resources as the public requests, and demands through this ROS study. For the people, by the people, and with the peoples consent and direction.

However, the current practice of charging water release fees for whitewater recreation paid for by the local whitewater community, is unjust, and with the current economic conditions, will eventually tax this industry to the extent of decreasing growth, jobs, and future economic development.

Flood control is very important but water quality and hydroelectric power as well as marine traffic should be considered. I think that the order of priority should be 1 water quality 2 hydroelectric power 3 flood control 4 river traffic (barges & such) 5 recreation (river rafting)

Leave the Lake full LONGER

Keep lake levels more consistent.

Reevaluate the original management agenda

Members should represent the communities and states in which they live.

Less bureaucracy in the upper mgmt. area with more hands on by the middle mgmt. and by actually listening to these comments.

Leave Blue Ridge Lake full

Care about water quality and recreation issues more than generating power and making money

Concentrate on flood control and generating electricity

Extend the lake levels longer

4. What alternatives should TVA consider in managing the system?

Should re-evaluate the original premise of original reservoir to see if power is still as high a priority or has recreation taken the lead.

Have Commissioners on the TVA Board that reside or have a vested interest in the TVA System.

To maintain the coldwater fishery on the Hiwassee below Appalachia Powerhouse, consider constant low-flow generation/release consistent with current minimum flow amounts. Also, thermal stratification in the lakes could be utilized to make release water colder and therefore require less water to be released. TVA really needs to develop a seasonal release schedule for the Hiwassee River that is agreeable to all parties involved. Also a drought management plan that does not affect weekend whitewater releases needs to be developed. The guide curves for lakes feeding the Hiwassee need to be reviewed. If they were changed to allow for lake filling earlier in the spring, summer rains could pass through the system, maintaining lake levels while providing downstream recreation.

Consider recreation as important as flood control and power generation. Navigation seems to be obsolete or of less importance now.

They should consider environmental issues

Keeping lake levels consistent.

I am sure they are already considering all options, based on what I have seen and heard. Of course, recreation is the most obvious concern that we think must start to be weighted more heavily. We understand that the other issues will and should also remain important.

Water supply, electricity and recreation.

Should consider location of reservoir in relationship to lake levels. For example, Lake Nottely would not have a lot to do with flood control on the Tennessee River, therefore, it should be managed differently for it's location vs. other lakes in TVA.

More to the point, what should NOT be considered?

The public interests should be considered - NOT private developers.

Keep lake levels high year round.

Same as previous answer

Keeping Blue Ridge Lake at a decent level for recreation until November each year should be the number one priority. Protect the property owner's investment by keeping the level up.

Leave the lake at full pool from May 1 to Labor Day

The Board should be made up of people who are from the states that are involved, not by members from states WAY to the west of us.

Let the people living in the TVA area be aware of what actions are being taken and the reason behind the actions. More current studies. They should be done yearly to have more accurate studies.

Bring the lake level up earlier in the spring.

Consider what is best for the majority interest in developments for the lakes, with flexibility to the policy to make the right decision.

Increase fines for pollution to our waters, as only 7% of this earth's water is fresh water and our children look to us to protect and preserve our resources. Set a good example.

Remove the political process and make decisions on issues faster than has been done on the entire lake level process.

Let the economic benefits from the selling of water/electricity generation from Lake Blue Ridge be offset by the recreational value and tourism dollars. Consider selling the pristine water to the city of Atlanta to use as a supplement to their water source. The watershed for Blue Ridge is 100% in Georgia, and yet the benefit of our water is directed to the citizens of TN.

I'm not qualified to answer this question.

Anything that is run by the federal government is never run effectively

Simply extend the amount of time the lake level is high. Winters are less challenging these days. Allow the same amount to flow below the dam on a more consistent basis.

Be more realistic in determining the amount of draw down required to prevent flooding.

Keep the water levels up or near full pool from April 1 thru Oct 30. Don't draw the lake down to fill up another without there being a good reason like severe drought or power problems.

TVA should study how GA Power operates Lake Rabun and Lake Burton and choose the alternatives that they use.

Emphasize recreation over just flood control and power generation

Less electricity generation and more water in pool

Bring the Lake to full pool by May 1. Leave them up through September, and then pull them down as now to meet flood control requirements.

Consider all parties and entities, not just focusing on the Tenn. River level

The ROS must address the potential effect of various numbers of recreational releases on upstream lake levels. The concerns of lakefront property owners at Lakes Nottely, Chatuge, Hiwassee, and Appalachia need to be factored into any downstream management process. It is my belief that improving the existing coldwater habitat can only be beneficial to the economy of the region. Furthermore, a predictable and adequate recreational release schedule will increase local revenue through commercial and private boating. A mutually acceptable drought management plan will ensure the continuance of this economic growth even during periods of low water.

Add area citizens to their decision-making committees and groups.

Less attention to navigation and river levels

Their choice

Possible owner financial assistance

Less water down stream

Better water level management

Leaving lake level at full pool Memorial Day through Late September.

Keep lake levels up until Oct. 31

The amount of water coming in is small, so why couldn't the level be left higher during the winter months???

Designate these lakes as recreational lakes. Fill them up sooner and keep them full longer and don't draw them down so far.

Again set a minimum lake level. Maybe -10 feet from spillway level.

Economic development in the local communities.

Making sure that all the aspects of concern are treated fairly. If the majority of people in this area feel that TVA is not addressing our concerns, then a balance is not being achieved.

Starting the draw down in mid Sept. not August or earlier

See comments under previous question.

I feel the recreational public has a right to free recreational releases on all of TVA's system. I feel that TVA would more readily fulfill their claim of public stewardship in meeting the above.

GIVE CONSIDERATION TO LAKES THAT Are hard to fill to summer levels

Equal and fair user fees for all recreational users. The current whitewater release fees charged to local rafting business, is not equal with the entire recreational user demographics. Lake users, power boaters, fishermen and women, swimmers, picnickers do not incur the costs in equal amounts that are demanded of the whitewater release users.

Do away with whitewater recreation release fees charged to the industry users. Increase whitewater releases on other river sections that are not currently available due to de-watered riverbeds to develop economic interests in other rural areas.

Do away with the fees associated with lost energy income, whose energy is sent out of state and does not help the local economy, as the whitewater industry does.

Leave the lakes fuller later and fill sooner this would allow for more hydropower as well as recreation also keeping the shore line in better shape because of the erosion, thus maintaining water quality.

RECREATION AND POWER

Keep water levels in all lakes high.

New guidelines

Leave the lake full

Boat launch fees? Extra money from fishing licenses?

Try to get power from somewhere else even if it means paying some more during the peak power times of the year. Charge people for using the lakes that don't live on it, so that the money could help offset what TVA loses in power resources

Let the communities work with TVA in conjunction to control lake levels

5. What quality of life issues need to be addressed in your area or town?

Water quality, overpopulation of wave runners on lake, unregulated camping on islands, which leaves trash behind.

The economy of Polk County is almost entirely supported by whitewater recreation. If releases on Whitewater Rivers are restricted, the quality of life in Polk County will be negatively impacted.

With the lake levels down so low for so long - Oct-Mar. we have a lot of trucks and 4-wheelers who use our cove bottom for fun. This seems to cause a lot of erosion by digging up the bottom plus the noise from these vehicles. They also drive thru our property to get up and down to the lake bottom.

Water quality.

Increased water levels for longer periods of time will generate additional revenue and jobs from increased recreational use.

Clean water and enough to encourage growth of the community.

Increasing the recreation opportunities and of course the lake levels drastically affect this. It is not only the obvious points, but for example, how can we increase the fish population? How can we improve water quality? How can we maximize the economic impact of the area? All of these require and change in the water level management.

We are concerned about the recreational use of the TVA system. We like to boat and fish.

Carrying capacity of the land as far as numbers of homes allowed per acre, clean, environmentally sound industries and other businesses. Fair property tax structure to allow open spaces, farms, and timber properties to remain as such should the landowner choose to do so.

Environmental quality due to explosive growth.

Clean drinking water and healthy habitat for fish life. There is also the problem of water pollution by wave runners and boats.

The cleanliness and health of the water. Too much is left to local health departments who often find it difficult to enforce the rules on friends and neighbors.

The beauty of the lakes - need there be a reason for this?

Better lake utilization for recreation by local folks and visitors.

Blue Ridge quality of life would be greatly enhanced if the level of the lake was kept at a decent level. We could fish from our boats and docks without putting boats in and out of the water. You could also improve quality of life of many owners on Blue Ridge Lake by using some better judgment in awarding boat dock permits. If there is not room for a boat dock because of other landowner's docks, you should not issue a permit. Right now, if someone has 10 foot of lake frontage you will issue a boat dock permit when there is no possible way to get another dock into a particular cove because of other docks.

I have concerns over the way the lake is lowered in the middle of August, before all the visitors have had a chance to enjoy the beauty of the area. To see lots of red clay and low lake levels keeps them from wanting to stay in the area.

The lakes in this area are used for recreational purposes and a number of businesses suffer when the lake level is so low that the lake cannot be used. The recreational home industry

suffers when lots cannot be sold because there is no water in front of the lots. The water needs to stay at a certain level.

Economic issues need to be address. We need more jobs with better pay.

Lake level impact in Fannin County could be measured in economic value, if Blue Ridge Levels were to stay up thru September more recreation would be created.

Lake levels coming up earlier in the year.

The attempt to control the Lake access by a local attorney, and a few residents that purchased in a cove having diminished value based on location next to a community access lake lot. They have used TVA in an attempt to influence a change in the land use.

I feel TVA will make the right decision in the final appeal.

Water quality

The creation of jobs via additional revenue provides more revenue for the businesses and in the end a larger tax base for the county and city.

A mud flat recreation area 9 months a year mars the beauty of Union County and hurts our economic development. People need to be able to enjoy our God given resources.

Peace of mind that would be enhanced by year round higher lake levels.

Maintain a more constant water level to improve the use of area lakes

Separating water sports areas and fishing areas

The looks of down town Blairsville is bad because of level of the lake.

Our economy is at risk. We have just lost 384 jobs in a plant closing. We need alternative means of developing our area's economy and this means tourism, second homes and retirement.

Jobs and development.

Maintaining a balance between the needs of the TVA versus the beauty, recreation needs, and wildlife that this area is known for. Keep the water up so we can enjoy the lake and invite our friends to share this great area.

The quality of life issues impacts the local economy not being able to grow because of the impact the lowering of the water levels has on recreation and the local job market. Also of concern is the impact this has on the fish and wildlife natural habitat.

Land prices - lake levels.

Our quality of life in Towns County depends on the tourism that the lake brings to that area. We drink the water from Lake Chatuge it's our reservoir.

Environment over Development

A full lake during the summer would greatly aid the economy. Fannin County GA is one of the poorest in GA and increasingly depends on tourism for revenue.

Lake quality first and lake levels. The management of the land surrounding the lake.

The Hiwassee tail water is a designated State Scenic River. It offers unmatched recreational opportunity to a wide variety of users. It is acknowledged as an excellent whitewater teaching river by numerous paddling organizations and rescue squad training teams and as premier tail water trout fishery, which has achieved national recognition as one of Trout Unlimited's Top 100 Streams in North America. By providing regularly scheduled whitewater releases and improved minimal flow conditions, TVA has the ability to provide exceptional recreational opportunities to highly diverse and broad-ranging groups of individuals.

The lake water quality

Higher lake levels longer

More recreation time on lake - we are a tourist area and need it for our economy

How to slow down growth

Again keeping the water at a decent level all year round.

Noise control, police trash

Overall appearance of community

Better income for the local economy

Full pool adds drastically to the quality of my family's life and I can say the same for most Hiawassee citizens.

Local economics are dependent on summer fall tourism

A longer boating season would give families more time to vacation and enjoy the lake privileges. The city of Blairsville and other surrounding areas would benefit from the increased traffic flow and people vacationing.

Quality of Water and enough water to put your boat in.

Lake level minimum

Recreational

Additional water recreation.

Treasuring and caring for our natural resources is a major interest for the majority of us. Part of that is having a full lake that provides a habitat for wildlife and enjoyment for the human population.

We are very concerned about the quality of the lake water. We are members of the Lake Nottely Improvement Assoc. and the Hiawassee Watershed Coalition and hope to make a difference from an end user perspective. Would like to see a lot of cooperation between TVA and these associations.

The health of the lake and its fish population.

Environmental stress on lakes leading to degradation of lakes for non-power related and flood control uses

Our visitors and our residents could utilize the lake recreationally for more months, or better yet, year-round.

Keeping lake level up longer

Water quality is of utmost importance. If the water isn't any good, there will be no point in spending time at the lake. Population and building on the lake edge should be controlled so as not to create over usage of the shoreline and actual lake area. We were told when we bought our property that only 10% of the shoreline would be developed. We want it to stay that way. Noise and pollution could also be directly affected by the numbers of people and recreational vehicles using the lake.

Economic development at all levels.

Jobs.

More quality recreation opportunities.

Less government and private industry control over public interests.

A better understanding of lake levels for recreation use would create a better economy for the area from tourism. Personally I like to see the lake full it makes my life easier and much more beautiful to view. It also attracts more friends.

Recreation and water-skiing use of the lakes in the area

Water quality, population density, and keep as much land natural

Water quality

Water quality in the lake and feeder streams.

EMPLOYMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EMPLOYMENT LESS raises in the pay scheme and more opportunities for the guy on the bottom of the food chain

LESS boat traffic and more wakeboard boats everywhere

Lake levels go so low in the winter that stable fish populations can't be supported. Lake can't be used at all in the winter for fishing and recreation.

Water quality and erosion

Our community is dependent on tourism- without a full lake our tourism suffers

6. What do you value most about the TN River system and TVA reservoirs?

My view is admittedly one sided. Would it not be possible to meet other missions of TVA without drawing the lake down so drastically and so early in the season (early august the last two years)?

Recreation, water quality, fishing

Beauty, water quality, flood control & navigation

Equal recreation to all the lakes not special interest in Lake Chatuge

Downstream recreation, the coldwater fishery (since it is not naturally occurring in this area), the fact that I can paddle a whitewater river during the summer even if there has not been a recent rain.

Natural resources i.e. trout fishing, and the preservation of all resources

Recreation

Keeping the water clean to generate recreational activities that will generate more revenue for the area.

Good water supply, flood control, recreation, and power generation.

Recreation

Their beauty. The fact that much of the shoreline is controlled from over development. Protection from flooding. Cheap power.

The use of the lake

The recreational opportunities

The diversity of aquatic life including sport fish and non-game species.

Their interest in protecting the natural environment.

Recreational opportunity it provides

The beauty and naturalness of the TVA lakes and lands.

Lakes for recreation.

Its benefits to both electric and sports

Fishing and recreation and having a lake to view instead of a mud bed from my front porch.

A balance between recreational use and flood control, electric output and navigation

We have a lake to use, and they brought electric power to the region. We have lower power rates, they protect the environment.

That it flows.

TVA reservoirs provide beauty, recreation and beneficial electricity, with all the public land in Fannin County this helps make the lake accessible to everyone.

The water quality and TVA power generation when and where needed. A new power plant nearby Blue Ridge should eliminate pulling from this lake.

The quality of the water and the woods area.

I value most the recreational resources and then the protection of the natural resources.

We value the pristine and serene Lake Blue Ridge.

Recreation via boating

The excellent maintenance

Not much if anything. Maybe the beauty of the lakes.

The beauty of the Appalachian Mountains, especially the waters of our lakes, streams and rivers.

Recreation and power source

Reasonable electric rates, the jobs it has created, how quality of life has improved, and the recreation it provides.

The environment, quality of water, and recreational opportunities.

That TVA has provided a Lake for us to enjoy for parts of the year.

The tail waters as a recreational facility.

Having clean, good quality water in our beautiful LAKE Chatuge! I appreciate that the flood control used to be necessary, but the weather is changing.

Recreation and Clean water

Your tenacity in preventing pollution, destruction of the shoreline and trees, and rigid management of new development to protect the lake and river downstream.

Downstream recreation and preservation of cold water fisheries and habitat. The Hiwassee River is the only tail water in Tennessee where rainbow and brown trout are stocked every month of the year.

The physical beauty and recreational use of Lake Chatuge.

Recreation

Cleanest

Recreation use

Water quality, low traffic volume, and scenery

Beauty and water quality

Several things are very important: Flood control, Power, Recreation and they are all important

The beauty of the lake.

The recreation opportunities

A full clean lake.

A lake that has water in it!

Electricity

Management of the water resources.

The lake systems

Full lake level so that the lake can be enjoyed for recreation is of great value. In addition, excellent water quality is a priority.

Providing electricity at reasonable rates and the many recreational uses if TVA would only recognize the latter that is important to the economy of the area.

The beauty

Recreation and environmental issues

Source of electrical power and recreation.

Local use

The system has allowed the creation of the lake, thus allowing me to be actually living the dream

Recreation

Recreational opportunities.

Water.

Flood control.

Electric generation.

Boating then hydro power

THE WATER LEVELS

The beauty of the area...we always wanted a place in the mountains on the water

Power generation recreation navigation for Tenn. River

Power and recreation.

Blue Ridge Lake and boating

The lakes and rivers are the most important asset

I realize that it provides power for our area and is needed for flood control, but it is so widely used for recreation and it looks so nice and promotes our community helping bring in more people and money to our area.

Economic cost of electricity and water quality

That they are there! Not the way they are managed.

7. What do you see as threats to the TN River system and TVA reservoirs?

Management by non-vested interest individuals.

Lax environmental regulations. TVA does not appear to be regulated the same as other power companies due to its unique situation -- TVA's power seems to be a threat to the TN River System. Money talks -- therefore the money invested in lakefront property seems to talk louder to TVA than downstream recreation. The total economic impact of all forms of downstream recreation needs to be studied in detail.

The droughts we've had for several years keep the lake from filling up.. only Nottely..

Soil erosion and pollution

By draining the lake, it threatens the wildlife's habitat.

Taking down the lake too early. Also, this causes environmental problems.

The long period of low water level

Drought! Irresponsible development. Poor management.

Pressure to give commercial navigation and electricity such high priority that recreational uses are impacted negatively.

Continued rapid growth in the area with minimal land-use planning or environmental regulation enforcement.

Uncontrolled usage.

New Construction

Private development, land swaps, and lack of control of water quality.

Too much emphasis on downstream navigation and flood control results in inequitable upstream sacrifice.

Rafters. I believe TVA is giving the rafters top priority over landowners with huge investments and high taxes. Jet Skis are also a significant threat. They are ruining the shoreline. Also, certain areas such as the where Wilscot Creek area should be designated as a no wake zone. There is not a place in that area where a boat or jet ski should exceed 5 miles per hour as they are always within 100 feet of a boat dock. They are ruining this shoreline by speeding through the area.

Special interest groups like the barge transport industry using our supply lakes to keep their channels deep.

WATER QUALITY on our lake (Nottely) has been "poor" for the past several years. We need control of livestock entering the lake. Runoff from lawns and farms cause a large part of the water quality problems here.

Excessive selling of the water for power, when it is not needed to be sold. The threat is that if this agency is not performing in the public interests the public will prevail. The TVA is needed, but who decides if it is functioning for the good of the public.

Terrorism.

Pollution and commercial interest such as chip mills

Public pollution of the waters, from too much building run off, and trash in the lakes.

The reduction of recreational usage.

Decreased water quality would threaten our system. The TVA needs to retain control of the shoreline that they now have to preserve our natural resources.

Bureaucrats who sustain an out of date system in order to perpetuate their jobs.

More information about why the lake are drained the way are

Intelligent people questioning their methods.

Pollution and water usage

Pollution and over development.

Over development, allowing big business to pollute the rivers and lakes without recourse.

I see no threats except to the bureaucracy that TVA has created and their attitude toward the local community that they don't care what we think.

Residential growth along the lakes and rivers.

Terrorists looking at nuclear plant, Contractors not putting up silt fences, etc. Boats that are too large for a small lake, Jet skis too close to shore, leaking septic tanks

OVER DEVELOPMENT

Overbuilding on the lake, pollution up stream in the form of chicken farms, potential industrial sites and unmanaged waste from houseboats and renegade septic situations. Do not let it happen!

Quality of water

Current minimal flow policy makes the Hiwassee River tail water vulnerable to excessive warming, sedimentation, and pollution from industry, agriculture and logging. Clean water makes a healthy fishery. During years of ample rainfall the Hiwassee thrives as a healthy fishery because coldwater releases from Appalachia Powerhouse.

Current and more importantly future industrial expansion.

Commercial demands on water supply for barges/shipping

Hazardous waste dumping without adequate mentoring and fines

Pollution

Drought

Outside water use

Pollutants

Competing interests for a finite quantity of water.

Erosion

This is why I have come tonight.

Single mindedness to maximize power generation dollars

Industrial waste flowing into the lake.

Poor water quality and mud flats for lakes.

The almighty buck. Bucks for power!

The ever-escalating need for more and more power generation and the general waste of energy.

The constant rise and lowering of the water levels so that there is increased erosion to the lake bank

A lack of balance in priorities.

Government control

Over development of the lake area

Pollution from agriculture, industry, construction and uninformed populace. This area is growing in leaps and bounds and we need to get a handle on it NOW.

Over population.

Less willingness for TVA to invest in non-profit (fiscally speaking) related uses.

Overpopulation, poor management

Erosion within each lake due to winter draw down;

Government and private energy producer regulations, control, and inability or lack of desire to consider and effect the desires, demands and opinions of the public.

Poorly maintained dams and hydro generators. and maybe overcrowding of the lake users and housing developers

PWC'S and poor water quality management

I see too much growth, land being striped. all this growth will have a major impact on the water quality

population growth, money for management, politics

Pollution, too much construction around rivers and lakes.

Our recreational releases for the good of my area and the few jobs that are created by the TVA

Drawing the lake down

Pollution and higher energy generation in the late summer

Too much recreation esp. When it comes to jet skis which are so dangerous and pollution that would lower our water quality. Our lakes need to be monitored closely and patrolled so that people follow laws and don't litter.

Recreation and noise pollution

Chicken houses

8. What do you like about how TVA manages the TN River system & reservoirs?

Their apparent interest in improving the "System" due to holding this workshop.

Last summer TVA provided Hiwassee users a framework water release schedule from which they would not take weekend water. Releases were sometimes longer than the framework, but there was guaranteed water.

Nothing

We like the web site showing the changing levels of the lake.

Cheap power. Environmental responsibility except for shoreline erosion and its effect on the lake and its fish. We all know that it is a mammoth responsibility that TVA takes seriously. We only hope you will consider change.

I greatly appreciate the fact that, in recent years, TVA has given validity to fisheries that have developed below their dams and encouraged these fisheries to be considered in the management plan.

We admire their fish population management, quality concerns of the lake.

I think it has been a marvelous program and that over the years it has worked well under existing policies. BUT - times are changing and it time to take a second look. With the burdensome increase in population we need to revisit the current set-up.

High water levels in summer for recreation, inexpensive electrical power and good drinking water in the immediate area.

Nothing with the exception of flood control. Fishing is not good because of the level of the lake going up and down so much. Lake level should be held up fro recreation no matter what else may come up for consideration.

We see them on the lake, testing the quality of the fish, and the water. In more recent years, the TVA seems to be more interested in the public opinion regarding their efforts on lake management.

From what I have seen, TVA does a good job.

The information sources provided on the Website.

Not much. The TVA determines the lake level ranges months in advance with no consideration to amount of rainfall the watershed has received.

Nothing

They're doing a great job and the management is doing very good

The recreation it provides to the residents.

The TVA is far better at managing their system than the COE, however one should look at the way GA Power manages their lakes to see the forward thinking that goes into maintaining the balance they require.

Nothing

They seem to have an interest in all aspects of the river system.

Concern about the environment

Your protection of the shore line, management of new building and associated septic issues, protection of trees and needed growth to prevent erosion.

Not much

Meetings like we're attending today.

Not sure

Not much as it stands right now

We think there are better ways to make electricity today

Think they need to get with it in today's time and population. It was started over 60 years ago.

We have water most of the summer months

I feel that the people who work for the TVA are very approachable and genuinely interested in solving problems.

It has been a blessing for many people for many years. I type too slowly to go into more detail!

Reservoirs have great aquatic life

Very little.

Nothing so far.

In the past TVA focused on the general economic well being of the region and fair use of the water. This has been replaced by a power generation focused single mindedness that unfortunately leaves little to like about the management.

Not much because you do not communicate, you only tell us what you are going to do without input from the many people who live on these lakes.

We like this community meeting and that you are asking us for our input.

Nothing, if you live on Lake Nottely.

Local staff is remarkably committed to working with local people and issues

Recreation

Recreational whitewater releases on the Ocoee River.

Quality water resources.

Flood control.

Electric production.

The use of the water and the flood control measures

Being able to use the water to ski on

Keeping the rivers flowing, lake levels as high as possible

Co-operation with local lake association

Blue ridge lake + ski boats

Clean power generation

Inexpensive cost of electricity and undeveloped shoreline

Cheap power

9. Which public benefit do you believe is TVA's highest mgmt. priority?

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Providing Recreation	20
2. Electricity Production	20
3. Flood Control	17
4. Protecting the Natural Environment	9
5. Water Supply	5
6. Commercial Navigation	2

10. What public benefits are NOT on the list above, but should be?

Downstream recreation. regional economic benefits of downstream recreation

Local priorities of water use

Protecting the health of the people by protecting the health of the environment.

Benefit to the local economy of better recreation.

Effect of tax revenue on Fannin County because of low lake level

Water Quality

Economic Issues

Fixed docks at launch locations. Community launch locations to minimize congestion.

Economic development, by increasing the recreational possibilities of the Blairsville area.

Fisheries biology for the lakes that would be enhanced by year round higher lake levels

The water levels and the natural beauty of the lake and recreations on the lakes.

Economic Development through tourism.

Recreation

Land control.

Recreation

Recreation should be a close second to protecting the environment.

Lake level minimum

Specifically downstream recreation.

Environmental (ecological) considerations, Recreational uses, Water supply

Water quality

Future economic development through recreational resources provided by the TVA.

Water skiings

Water quality

Community economics

Jobs and employment for the small business man at the bottom of the food chain

Fishing and aquatic wildlife

Keep lake levels up through Oct.

Trash control on waterways

11. Which public benefit SHOULD BE the highest mgmt. priority for TVA?

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Providing Recreation	28
2. Protecting the Natural Environment	26
3. Flood Control	7
4. Water Supply	6
5. Electricity Production	5
6. Commercial Navigation	0

12. Which public benefit should be the SECOND HIGHEST mgmt. priority?

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Providing Recreation	25
2. Protecting the Natural Environment	22
3. Electricity Production	11
4. Water Supply	10
5. Flood Control	8
6. Commercial Navigation	0

13. Which public benefit should be the LOWEST mgmt. priority?

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Electricity Production	22
2. Commercial Navigation	14
3. Flood Control	10
4. Providing Recreation	6
5. Water Supply	5
6. Protecting the Natural Environment	2

14. Likelihood that population in your area will grow considerably?

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Very Likely	50
2. Somewhat Likely	10
3. Neutral	4
4. Somewhat Unlikely	2
5. Very Unlikely	1

15. Desirability of population in your area growing considerably?

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Undesirable	20
2. Desirable	17
3. Neutral	15
4. Very Undesirable	7
5. Very Desirable	6

16. Likelihood that growth will be in cities; undeveloped areas unchanged?

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Very Unlikely	29

2. Somewhat Unlikely	15
3. Neutral	8
4. Very Likely	5
5. Somewhat Likely	3

17. Desirability that growth will be in cities; undeveloped areas unchanged?

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Very Desirable	18
2. Desirable	15
3. Neutral	11
4. Undesirable	6
5. Very Undesirable	6

18. What is the likelihood that your area will have more jobs?

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Somewhat Likely	25
2. Very Likely	22
3. Somewhat Unlikely	7
4. Neutral	6
5. Very Unlikely	3

19. What is the desirability of your area having more jobs?

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Desirable	28
2. Very Desirable	21
3. Neutral	8
4. Undesirable	2
5. Very Undesirable	0

20. Likelihood there will be stronger regulations to protect the environment?

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Very Likely	32
2. Somewhat Likely	22
3. Neutral	4
4. Somewhat Unlikely	2
5. Very Unlikely	2

21. Desirability of stronger regulations to protect the environment?

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Very Desirable	29
2. Desirable	22
3. Undesirable	8
4. Neutral	5
5. Very Undesirable	1

22. Pick 6 items that represent the MOST important value of the TVA system?

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Clean Water	52
2. Water-based Recreation	40
3. Drinking Water Supply	39
4. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Enhancement	39
5. Affordable Electricity	32
6. Flood Control	31
7. Economic Development	26
8. Scenic Beauty	24
9. Dam Safety	19
10. Shoreline Erosion Control	19
11. Planning for Future Growth	11
12. Public Land Conservation	9
13. Environmental Research	7
14. Campgrounds and Green Space	5
15. Commercial Waterway For Shipping Cargo	4
16. Shoreland Development	3
17. Protection of Historical Artifacts	2

23. Pick 6 items that represent the LEAST important value of the TVA system?

List (By Total Chosen)	Total
1. Commercial Waterway For Shipping Cargo	49
2. Environmental Research	30
3. Economic Development	29
4. Protection of Historical Artifacts	29
5. Planning for Future Growth	26
6. Shoreland Development	26
7. Campgrounds and Green Space	21
8. Flood Control	19
9. Affordable Electricity	16
10. Public Land Conservation	13
11. Dam Safety	9
12. Drinking Water Supply	8
13. Shoreline Erosion Control	8
14. Water-based Recreation	7
15. Wildlife and Fish Habitat Enhancement	5
16. Scenic Beauty	4
17. Clean Water	3

24. Please enter the county or counties each of you live in.

Towns
Polk County
Fannin county
Cobb Co and Union Co.
Towns co Hiawassee
Towns
Union, Fulton
Union County
Union County
Union county Georgia
Habersham
Union County Georgia
Fannin, Hall
Towns
Union County, GA
Fannin
Union County, Georgia
Union County, Georgia
Towns County
Fannin
Cherokee
Morganton, Ga. and Cumming, Ga.

My home is in Fulton County Georgia and our second home is in Union County, Ga.

Fulton and Fannin
Fannin
Fannin
Union 30512
Fannin County, Georgia
Houston and Union
union
Union
Fannin county Georgia
Union County
Fannin
DeKalb County
Towns
Cobb, union
union
union
Union
union county, Georgia
Union
Cobb, Union, McIntosh
Gordon
Union
Towns

Union Cobb
Cobb County, Ga.
Union County, Georgia
Union
Polk, Tenn
Union County
Union County GA
Union
Fannin County
Union
Union County, GA
Union
Polk ,TN
Fannin
Union county Georgia
FANNIN
POLK
Fannin
Union
Towns
POLK COUNTY, TENNESSEE
Blue ridge
Union
UNION
Fannin
Cherokee
Fannin

25. Please list your ZIP CODE(S) (you do not have to enter your addresses)

30546
37369
30513
30127
30546
30546
30512, 30004
30512
30512
30512
30512
30531
30512
30506
30546
30512
30512
30560
30512
30512
30546

30513
30560
30040
30512
30560
30513
30512
30513
30514
31088
30152
30512
30512
30555
30560
30319
30512
30512
30512
30514
30512
30701
30512
30546
30512
30064
30127
30512
30512
37317
30512
30512
30512
30513
30512
30512
30512
30512
37326
30560????
30512
30513
37317
30512
30546
37307
30513
30152
30512
30513
28906
30560

26. Which State(s) do you (or each of you) live in?

List (By Total Chosen)

Total

1. Georgia	62
2. Tennessee	5
3. North Carolina	2
4. Other	1
5. Alabama	0
6. Kentucky	0
7. Mississippi	0
8. Virginia	0

27. I believe TVA will consider my input in this planning process?

True: 68.9%
False: 31.1%